

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 08527 121120Z

13-17

ACTION EB-07

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----- 103090

O 121045Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6763

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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USIA FOR MOCERI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL ITU GR

SUBJECT: ITU REGIONAL LOW AND MEDIUM FREQUENCY (LF/MF) BROAD-
CASING CONFERENCE: PROBLEM WITH UAE REQUIREMENT FOR
USE OF FREQUENCY 729 KHZ

1. ITU REGIONAL LF/MF BROADCASTING CONFERENCE NOW IN SESSION
AT GENEVA; CONVENED OCTOBER 6 AND ADJOURNS NOVEMBER 22.
CONFERENCE IS DEVELOPING NEW FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENT PLANS FOR
LOW AND MEDIUM WAVE BROADCASTING STATIONS IN ALL AREAS OF
WORLD EXCEPT WESTERN HEMISPHERE. ALTHOUGH US NOT INVOLVED
GEOGRAPHICALLY, THERE ARE MANY US FOREIGN BROADCASTING
OPERATIONS IN THE AREAS CONCERNED. US FOREIGN BROADCASTING
FREQUENCY REQUIREMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE RESPECTIVE
REQUIREMENTS OF EACH HOST COUNTRY (E.G. GREECE) AND WE LOOK
TO THOSE COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT US REQUIREMENTS. A SMALL US
TEAM IS PRESENT AT GENEVA IN UNOFFICIAL STATUS TO WORK
WITH FOREIGN DELEGATIONS CONCERNED. MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN
IS A UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FREQUENCY REQUIREMENT WHICH
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 08527 121120Z

ADVERSELY EFFECTS GREEK INTERESTS WHICH IN TURN

COULD ADVERSELY EFFECT USG INTERESTS.

2. GREEK DEL HAS URGENTLY REQUESTED WHATEVER ASSISTANCE US CAN GIVE IN ATTEMPT TO HAVE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES DELETE REQUIREMENT FOR 729 KHZ AT SADIYAT. THIS CHANNEL (PRESENTLY 728 KHZ) WAS GRANTED EXCLUSIVELY TO ATHENS IN COPENHAGEN PLAN OF 1948 AND HAS BEEN USED AS MAIN NATIONAL NETWORK STATION FOR NEARLY THIRTY YEARS, SERVING ALMOST ALL OF GREECE DURING NIGHTTIME HOURS. INTERFERENCE FROM SADIYAT STATION WITH 750 KW POWER AS PRESENTLY SHOWN IN CONFERENCE LIST OF REQUIREMENTS WOULD WIPE OUT MOST OF THE EFFECTIVE COVERAGE OF THE GREEK STATION, LIMITING IT TO A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 20 KM AROUND ATHENS, DURING NIGHTTIME HOURS. ON THE OTHER HAND, FREQUENCY 729 KHZ SEEMS TO BE POOR CHOICE TECHNICALLY FOR UAE STATION. THEIR COVERAGE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE LIMITED DRASTICALLY BY A STATION IN OMAN SHOWN IN LIST OF REQUIREMENTS WITH 1500 KW ON ADJACENT CHANNEL 738 KHZ, AND FROM OTHER CO-CHANNEL STATIONS ON 729 KHZ. THIS APPEARS TO BE A CASE OF A PLANNED STATION DESTROYING LONG ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF GREEK STATION COVERAGE WITHOUT BENEFITS TO ITSELF.

3. GREEK DEL HAS ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE UAE DELETION OF 729 KHZ AND REPLACEMENT WITH ANOTHER FREQUENCY BUT SO FAR HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. HEAD OF UAE DELEGATION IS MR. FANOUS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.

4. IN DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT WITH UK DEL, GREEKS ADVISED THAT MARCONI IS SUPPLYING TRANSMITTER TO UAE. IN ATTEMPT TO ASSIST GREEKS, UK DEL WILL ASK MARCONI TO TRY AND PERSUADE UAE TO CHANGE FREQUENCY.

5. GREEKS CONSIDER SITUATION CRITICAL, AND ONE THAT MUST BE SOLVED BEFORE CONFERENCE ENDS NEXT WEEK. CONSIDERING STRONG SUPPORT AND FULL SCALE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY GREEKS IN PROTECTING FREQUENCIES USED BY VOA (VOICE OF AMERICA) AT KAVALA AND RHODES, AND FOR AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK IN GREECE, WE FEEL US HAS OBLIGATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 08527 121120Z

TO ASSIST GREEKS TO EXTENT FEASIBLE. WE ALSO FEARFUL THAT IF GREEKS DO NOT GET ADEQUATE CLEARANCE ON 729 KHZ THEY MAY EXPECT TO USE VOA'S KAVALA FREQUENCY AT ATHENS, A SFRQUENCY WHICH NOW EMERGING AS ONE OF CLEARER FREQUENCIES IN EUROPEAN AREA. GREEK DEL HAS ALREADY POINTED THIS OUT TO US TEAM IN FRIENDLY TONE.

6. FOLLOWING ACTIONS FOR ABU DHABI AND LONDON ARE

SUGGESTED:

A. EMBASSY ABU DHABI AT ITS DISCRETION DISCUSS SITUATION SOONEST WITH COMPETENT UAE OFFICIALS. ASCERTAIN IF STATION AT SADIYAT IS PRESENTLY OPERATING, AND IF SO, WITH WHAT POWER AND DURING WHAT HOURS? ARE UAE OFFICIALS AWARE THAT FREQUENCY 729 KHZ IS POOR CHOICE FOR NEW FREQUENCY PLAN, BECAUSE OF INTERFERENCE THAT WILL BE RECEIVED FROM OMAN STATION ON ADJACENT CHANNEL 738 KHZ AND OTHER STATIONS ON 729 KHZ? IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT UAE CAN CHANGE FREQUENCY, OR REDUCE POWER TO 100 KW DURING NIGHTTIME HOURS? WILL UAE TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVE AT GENEVA?

B. EMBASSY LONDON AT ITS DISCRETION DISCUSS WITH UK FOREIGN OFFICE AND ASK THAT MARCONI BE REQUESTED TO CONSIDER SERIOUS IMPACT ON UAE ITSELF AND TO ASSIST IN PERSUADING UAE TO CHANGE FREQUENCY OR REDUCE POWER DURING NIGHTTIME OPERATIONS. THIS WOULD SUPPORT UK DEL WHO PLANNING SIMILAR APPROACH (REF PARA 4 ABOVE).

7. REQUEST RESULTS BE CABLED US MISSION GENEVA SOONEST, SLUGGED FOR "US TEAM, LF/MF CONFERENCE". DALE

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